



December 31, 2012

**COCA Updates** are disseminated biweekly. More frequent distributions occur when there is emergency information or CDC event-specific updates to share. The next COCA Update is scheduled for **January 14**.

This issue contains information from **December 17 – December 31, 2012** and guidance documents relevant to current public health events.

For questions about these or other clinical issues, please write to us at [coca@cdc.gov](mailto:coca@cdc.gov).

#### **Additional Resources**

[CDC Emergency on Twitter](#)

[CDC Health Partners Outreach on Facebook](#)

[COCA Home Page](#)

#### **Topics and Highlights**

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## **COCA News and Announcements**

### **Upcoming COCA Call/Webinar:**

#### **Stopping Norovirus in its Tracks: What Every Clinician Should Know**

**Date:** Thursday, January 17, 2013

**Time:** 2:00-3:00 pm (Eastern Time)

**Call Number:** 888-790-6180

**Passcode:** 1281914

**Webinar Link:** <https://www.mymeetings.com/nc/join.php?i=PW7035569&p=1281914&t=c>

During this COCA call, a CDC subject matter expert will discuss the burden of norovirus outbreaks, review diagnostics and surveillance tools, and share resources to promote the prevention and control of norovirus infections.

For more information on this call: [http://emergency.cdc.gov/coca/calls/2013/callinfo\\_011713.asp](http://emergency.cdc.gov/coca/calls/2013/callinfo_011713.asp)

Archived COCA Conference Calls are available at: <http://emergency.cdc.gov/coca/callinfo.asp>

Free continuing education (CME, CNE, ACPE, CEU, CECH, and AAVSB/RACE) is available for most calls.

## **CDC News and Announcements**

### **CDC Works For You 24/7 Blog: 13 Ways CDC Has Been There for America and the World in 2012 – December 21 (CDC)**

CDC work around-the-clock to protect Americans from health and safety threats, both foreign and domestic. CDC also help people lead longer, healthier, more productive lives by preventing heart attacks, cancer, stroke, diabetes, and other leading causes of death. Here's a list of 13 ways CDC has been there for America and the world in 2012.

<http://blogs.cdc.gov/cdcworksforyou24-7/2012/12/13-ways-cdc-has-been-there-for-america-and-the-world-in-2012/>

#### **CDC Science Clips: Volume 4, Issue: 50 – (CDC)**

Each week select science clips are shared with the public health community to enhance awareness of emerging scientific knowledge. The focus is applied public health research and prevention science that has the capacity to improve health now.

<http://www.cdc.gov/phlic/sciclips/issues/>

## **Public Health Preparedness**

#### **Assistant Secretary Nicole Lurie Statement on FDA Approval of First Anthrax Antitoxin Developed Under Project Bioshield – (HHS)**

With the U.S. Food and Drug Administration approval of the first drug for treatment of anthrax, our nation took a monumental step forward today in preparing for the health impacts of bioterrorism. Raxibacumab, manufactured by GlaxoSmithKline/Human Genome Sciences, is approved for use together with antibiotics to treat inhalational anthrax in both adults and children, and to prevent illness when alternative treatments are not available or appropriate. The drug is the first developed and procured under Project BioShield to receive FDA approval.

<http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2012pres/12/20121214a.html>

#### **Emergency Preparedness and Response – (CDC)**

Find resources for All Hazards and Specific Hazards preparedness.

<http://emergency.cdc.gov/hazards-all.asp>

#### **Emergency Preparedness and Response Training Resources for Clinicians – (CDC)**

Find online and in-person training centers and resources at

<http://emergency.cdc.gov/coca/trainingresources.asp>

## **Natural Disasters and Severe Weather**

#### **Extreme Cold: A Prevention Guide to Promote Your Personal Health and Safety – (CDC)**

The Extreme Cold Prevention Guide combines all of the key content of the CDC Winter Weather website into one downloadable, printable file. Printing this PDF file will ensure that you will have important winter weather health and safety information available even when you're without power or Internet service.

<http://emergency.cdc.gov/disasters/winter/guide.asp>

#### **Health and Safety Concerns for All Disasters – (CDC)**

<http://emergency.cdc.gov/disasters/alldisasters.asp>

## **Emerging Infectious Diseases (EID) Journal**

*EID* is prepared by the CDC. [EID Home Page](#)

#### **Volume 19, Number 1 – January 2013**

Highlights in this issue include:

- [Listeriosis Outbreaks and Associated Food Vehicles, United States, 1998–2008](#)
- [Staphylococcal Infections in Children, California, USA, 1985–2009](#)
- [Invasive Pneumococcal Disease after Routine Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccination in Children, England and Wales](#)

# Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR)

MMWR publications are prepared by the CDC. To electronically subscribe, go to <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/mmwrsubscribe.html>

**December 21, 2012 / Vol. 61 / No. 50** [Download .pdf document of this issue](#)

- [Serogroup A Meningococcal Conjugate Vaccine Coverage After the First National Mass Immunization Campaign — Burkina Faso, 2011](#)
- [Evaluation of Meningitis Surveillance Before Introduction of Serogroup A Meningococcal Conjugate Vaccine — Burkina Faso and Mali](#)

## Infectious, Vector-Borne and Zoonotic Diseases

### **FDA Expands Tamiflu's Use to Treat Children Younger Than 1 Year – December 21 (FDA)**

FDA expanded the approved use of Tamiflu (oseltamivir) to treat children as young as 2 weeks old who have shown symptoms of flu for no longer than two days. The drug is not approved to prevent flu infection in this population.

<http://www.fda.gov/NewsEvents/Newsroom/PressAnnouncements/ucm333205.htm>

### **Weekly Flu View – December 28 (CDC)**

This is a weekly influenza surveillance report prepared by CDC Influenza Division. All data are preliminary and may change as CDC receives more reports.

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/>

### **Planning and Preparedness: Health Professionals and Seasonal Flu – (HHS)**

Health care providers play an important role during flu season. The following guidance and information will assist health care providers and service organizations to plan and respond to seasonal flu.

<http://www.flu.gov/planning-preparedness/hospital/index.html>

## Travel Safety

### **Outbreak Notice: Dengue in Madeira, Portugal – December 20 (CDC)**

As of December 9, 2012, 2,050 cases of dengue fever have been reported from the Portuguese island of Madeira. There have been 58 cases of dengue reported in European travelers returning from Madeira. At this time, CDC does not advise against travel to Madeira. However, travelers should protect themselves from mosquito bites.

<http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices/outbreak-notice/dengue-madeira-portugal.htm>

### **Current Travel Warnings – December 28 (US Department of State)**

Travel Warnings are issued when long-term, protracted conditions that make a country dangerous or unstable lead the State Department to recommend that Americans avoid or consider the risk of travel to that country. A Travel Warning is also issued when the U.S. Government's ability to assist American citizens is constrained due to the closure of an embassy or consulate or because of a drawdown of its staff.

[http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis\\_pa\\_tw/tw/1764.html](http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/tw/1764.html)

## Food, Drug and Device Safety

**NEW:** CDC Health Alert Network (HAN) – Update: Multistate Outbreak of Fungal Infections among Persons Who Received Injections with Contaminated Medication – December 20 (CDC)

New information from diagnostic imaging of patients exposed to contaminated methylprednisolone acetate from the New England Compounding Center in Framingham, Mass., demonstrates the need for assertive clinical evaluation of these patients for the possibility of an unrecognized, localized spinal or paraspinal infection. This HAN notice provides updated guidance and information about the ongoing multistate outbreak of fungal infections.

<http://emergency.cdc.gov/HAN/han00338.asp>

### **Multistate Fungal Meningitis Outbreak Investigation: Clinician Guidance – (CDC)**

<http://www.cdc.gov/hai/outbreaks/clinicians/index.html>

### **MedWatch: The FDA Safety Information and Adverse Event Reporting Program – (HHS/FDA)**

Your FDA gateway for clinically important safety information and reporting serious problems with human medical products.

<http://www.fda.gov/Safety/MedWatch/default.htm>

### **FoodSafety.gov Reports FDA and USDA Food Recalls, Alerts, Reporting & Resources – (HHS/USDA/FDA/CDC/NIH)**

For recalls and alerts by both FDA and USDA, or to report a problem or make inquiries.

<http://www.foodsafety.gov/recalls/recent/index.html>

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The Emergency Risk Communication Branch (ERCB) Clinician Communication Team works to enhance partners' knowledge of emerging threats and their effects on human populations, and to provide relevant, timely information to help manage these threats by developing and maintaining mechanisms for communication. The Clinician Communication Team is responsible for the management of all COCA products.

**For information on this and other clinical issues or to send your feedback please contact us at [coca@cdc.gov](mailto:coca@cdc.gov)**

ERCB offers a variety of free tools and resources to help you enhance your knowledge of emergency preparedness and response:

[CDC Health Partners Outreach Facebook page](#) - real time updates, guidance, and situational awareness for public health partners on Facebook.

[Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity](#) – resources for health care providers.

[Subscribe the COCA RSS Feed](#) - get notified of conference calls, updates, and CDC guidance for health providers.

[Crisis & Emergency Risk Communication \(CERC\) Training](#) - course on the fundamentals of CDC's Crisis & Emergency Risk Communication.

[Selective National Assessment Profiles \(SNAPS\)](#) - snapshots of state population data and local-level community profile information.

[Risk Communicator](#) –quarterly online newsletter providing guidance for emergency risk communication strategy.



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